TO:     All Nursing Homes participating in the Virginia Medical Assistance Program, Managed Care Organizations Providing Services to Virginia's Medicaid Recipients and all holders of the Nursing Home provider manual

FROM:   Eric S. Bell, Director
        Department of Medical Assistance Services

| MEMO | Special |
|------|---------|
| DATE | 11-8-01 |

SUBJECT:   Modification of Transportation Coverage Policies

Effective immediately, the following changes apply to the coverage of transportation costs to non-Medicaid covered medical services. (1) If a resident requires medical services not covered by Medicaid (e.g., transportation costs incurred to receive medical or remedial services not covered by Medicaid), the responsible local Department of Social Services (DSS) may be requested to prepare a DMAS-122 (for a specified period of time) that allows for funds normally available for nursing home care to be available to pay for these transportation services. The nursing home will initiate a request for a DMAS-122 adjustment to cover the transportation to medical or remedial services not covered by Medicaid. (2) Transportation costs incurred to receive medical/remedial services not covered by Medicaid have been added to the items and services for which DSS may authorize a DMAS-122 adjustment without securing Department of Medical Assistance Services pre-authorization when these items cost less than $500. (3) Transportation costs to services covered by Medicaid cannot be deducted from patient pay and adjustments to the patient pay cannot be made if there are insufficient funds to cover the cost.

## COPIES OF MEDICAID MEMORANDA AND PROVIDER MANUALS

DMAS publishes searchable and printable copies of its provider manuals and Medicaid memoranda on the Internet. Please visit the DMAS website at http://www.cns.state.va.us/dmas/. Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH provider manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to see Medicaid memoranda. The Internet is the fastest way to receive provider information.

## "HELPLINE"

The "HELPLINE" is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except State holidays, to answer questions. The "HELPLINE" numbers are:

        786-6273          Richmond area
        1-800-552-8627    All other areas

Please remember that the "HELPLINE" is for provider use only.